

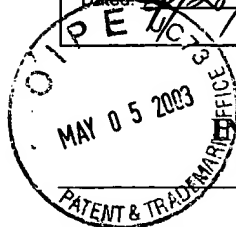
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Dated: 4/28/03

Signature: Joanne Ryan

(Joanne Ryan)

Docket No.: BURF-P01-010
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Utility Application of: Preparata et al.

Application No.: 09/416,779

Group Art Unit: 1631

Filed: October 13, 1999

Examiner: Lori Clow

For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR
SEQUENCING BY HYBRIDIZATION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 27, 2003, Applicants submit the following remarks. For convenience, a copy of the claims as pending is provided.

CLAIMS AS PENDING:

1. A nucleic acid probe, comprising a sequence of universal and designate nucleotides ordered in a pattern, wherein

(a) the pattern comprises a first string of universal nucleotides followed by a first segment, and a second string of universal nucleotides followed by a second segment,

(b) the first string and the second string each comprise two or more consecutive universal nucleotides; and

(c) the first segment and the second segment each comprise a designate nucleotide.

2. The probe of claim 1, having a universal nucleotide selected from the group consisting of 5-nitroindole and 3-nitropyrrole.